

News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202

After Hours: (856) 297-5433

For Immediate Release: June 16, 2008

U.S. FOR INTENSIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AT ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE AT NYU

(New York City, NY)—Salem County Freeholder Beth Timberman was one of a select group of twenty-two county leaders and two state association executive directors from across the United States who came to New York City during the first week of June to participate in the fourth annual County Leadership Institute, a rigorous four-day program developed by New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo). The Institute focused on how elected county officials could exercise leadership to address the complex challenges facing counties.

"The Institute provided an opportunity not only to hear from nationally recognized experts but also to work with my colleagues from across the country on specific approaches to address the challenges that all counties share," said Freeholder Timberman. "The intensive program of instruction provided invaluable insights that will help me serve the people of Salem County better."

CLI participants heard a number of unique perspectives on how they might exercise creative leadership on difficult challenges. Adjunct Professor Allen Zerkin discussed how to build and sustain collaborations. Steve Swendiman of NACo's Financial Services Center facilitated a roundtable conversation - involving executives from ESRI, NACO's Financial Services Corporation, Zions Bank, and Nationwide Retirement Solutions — about how to address "leadership and sustainability". Marty Linksey, adjunct lecturer in public policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, co-author (with Ronald Heifetz) of *Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading*, and faculty director for the Institute, led participants throughout the week in discussions examining the difficulties elected officials face when they attempt to move public discourse toward new and unexplored approaches.

"The county officials who participate in the institute get information, ideas, and perspectives they can't get anywhere else," said Larry Naake, executive director of NACo. "These county leaders not only discussed the core principles of public service leadership with prominent experts, they also collaborated intensively with each other to develop new ways to attack real-life issues of importance to the citizens of their counties," added Ellen Schall, dean of NYU Wagner.